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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07MOSCOW5066,

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07MOSCOW5066**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07MOSCOW5066	2007-10-18 15:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Moscow

Appears in these articles:

<http://new.novayagazeta.ru/politics/47127.html>

VZCZCXRO3202
PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHMO #5066/01 2911545
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 181545Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4720
INFO RUCNCLIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHMD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 005066

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/17/2017 TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [KDEM](#) [SOCI](#) [RS](#)

Classified By: Ambassador William J. Burns. Reasons: 1.4 (b,d).

Summary

1. (C) Federal Narcotics Service (FNS) Chief Cherkosov's October 9 article in the national daily Kommersant lifted the veil on long-simmering Cherkosov Article Energizes Kremlin Watchers

2. (C) As has been widely reported, long-simmering rivalries in Putin's inner circle surfaced dramatically on October 9 in a newspaper article

3. (C) Cherkosov's decision to go public was not unprecedented --in a December 2004 Komsomolskaya Pravda article he had described the siloviki

4. (C) Most commentators chose to view Cherkosov's article through the lens of his ongoing conflict with Presidential Administration Deputy Se

5. (C) Commentators noted that one of the key players in the detention of four of Cherkosov's subordinates was the recently-established Invest

6. (C) Against the background of that struggle, Cherkosov's Kommersant piece was seen as an appeal to Putin and a challenge to his opponents.

Putin's Faction Management

7. (C) It had been long predicted that Kremlin clan rivalries would heat up as the succession date approached. In the absence of political ins

8. (C) Although Putin appears to be succeeding in his efforts to preserve the delicate balance of interests among the competing elites, the Ch

9. (C) On the other hand, there have been signs that Putin is not as omniscient as XXXXXXXXXXXX suggests. There have been persistent press rep

10. (C) Analyst XXXXXXXXXXXX termed Cherkosov's article "damaging to Putin," as it offers to the public evidence of a rift in the President's

11. (C) Some trace an upsurge in fighting among the siloviki to Putin's appointment of Zubkov as Prime Minister. As former Chairman of the Con

Comment

12. (C) Observers expected that in-fighting of the kind seen over the last week would become more visible as Putin's term of office wound down
Burns